

their lives in harm's way so that we may live free.

Fort Benning is home to about 1,500 Rangers of the entire 75th Ranger Regiment. They are an elite group of soldiers who perform specialized operations for the Army. Currently, the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, as well as Rangers of the Regimental Headquarters and the Regimental Special Troop Battalion are deployed. I have a deep commitment to Ft. Benning, and once these Rangers pass through Ft. Benning, Georgia, they become part of our state's family.

On October 6th, 5 of these brave Rangers were part of a mission gone wrong. Sargent Patrick Hawkins, Private First Class Cody Patterson, 1st Lieutenant Jennifer Moreno, and Special Agent Joseph Peters were killed by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, and Corporal Joshua Hargis was seriously injured.

These soldiers came to Fort Benning from across the nation. They are sons and daughters, parents, and spouses, and loved by many. Their loss is felt across our nation and we thank them for paying the ultimate sacrifice.

As we mourn the loss of these four soldiers, I also want to give thanks for the life of Corporal Joshua Hargis. Cpl. Hargis was injured in the same mission on October 6th, and is pictured here beside me. This photo has been nicknamed "The Salute Seen Around the World" because it shows the strong character of an American soldier.

After hours of surgery, Cpl. Hargis' Commander held a small ceremony in the hospital to honor Cpl. Hargis with the Purple Heart Award. Doctors, nurses, fellow Rangers crowded the room to watch him receive the award. Despite his injuries, tubes, and intense pain, Cpl. Hargis still saluted his Commander when his Purple Heart Award was pinned on his hospital blanket. This act of determination despite pain embodies all that is a Ranger.

I want to thank these 5 brave Rangers—Sgt. Patrick Hawkins, PFC. Cody Patterson, 1st LT. Jennifer Moreno, Special Agent Joseph Peters, and Cpl. Joshua Hargis—for their service and sacrifice. Joan and I send our prayers to their families and friends.

God Bless America and God Bless our troops.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND W.H. FOSTER, SR. PASTOR OF THE PLEASANT GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, whereas, the Almighty God has called to his eternal rest Dr. W.H. Foster Sr.; and

Whereas, Reverend Foster was born and grew up in the State of Mississippi and migrated to Chicago like many of his contemporaries; and

Whereas, in 1957 he and his mate for life Ms. Louise Marshall were married and became the parents of nine children and a host of grand and great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, Dr. Foster was ordained a Minister at the age of 28, by Reverend Milton

Brunson and preached the gospel and thrilled thousands of people with his messages and great singing voice from that time on; and

Whereas, Reverend Foster was a great preacher, a wonderful moderator and a devoted member of the National Baptist Convention; and

Whereas, in concert with his religious work Dr. Foster was actively involved with community and the world of politics. I was pleased to enjoy the support and encouragement of Dr. Foster during my entire political career. He was a friend, a comrade and a spiritual advisor. I loved him for what he meant to our community and what he has personally meant to me. I extend condolences to his family, his church, his friends and associates, and may his soul rest in peace.

TEXAN VICTOR LOVELADY DIED PROTECTING OTHERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the world is in trouble, they look to Americans for help. One of my constituents, Mr. Victor Lovelady, heard this cry while working in Algeria and sacrificed his life to answer it.

Victor embodied the very best of the American spirit. He was brave, compassionate, and in the face of great danger made the decision to help and protect others instead of himself. Courage like this should be applauded. That is why this week I nominated Mr. Lovelady for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This is our nation's highest civilian honor and recognizes individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution" to our society. It is clear to me that Victor Lovelady not only meets, but exceeds this standard.

Like many Americans, Victor Lovelady was a hard worker who put in long hours to provide for his family of four. As an industrial engineer and master electrician, he worked most of his life in his hometown of Nederland, Texas. Later he moved down the street from me in Atascocita, Texas. However, when work in his area slowed, he traveled back and forth to Houston daily for almost three years so that his children would not have to change schools. Victor never had a pension plan and always had to pay his family's insurance by himself. He never had more than two weeks off in a year. He longed to be able to retire and spend more time with his wife and children.

When the opportunity to work overseas for British Petroleum arose, Victor weighed the pros and cons. He knew that if he did this job for a few years, he would be able to make enough money to retire and be with his family. He was also assured that it would be a safe place to work.

On January 9, 2013, Victor arrived in In Aenas, Algeria to begin his new job at the BP Gas facility. On the morning of January 16, Victor and several other workers were in the cantina having tea when a colleague walked in with a gunshot wound to his stomach. Mokhtar Belmokhtar's al Qaeda linked terrorists had stormed their facility and were indiscriminately killing innocent employees.

Thinking quickly, Victor began to clean and dress the man's wound as the sound of gun-

shots grew louder and louder. After he bandaged the man and hid him in a food container, Victor began helping the other men with him hide in the cantina's false ceiling, lifting them up so they could climb in. In total, Victor propelled three men into the hiding spot. Only when it sounded like the terrorists had entered the cantina did Victor try to save himself. Unfortunately, when attempting to climb into the ceiling, he fell and injured his ankle. Moments later, the terrorists found him and led him away.

Victor's selfless and heroic actions saved four lives that day. This entire ordeal was witnessed and recounted to me by one of the men he helped protect. Sadly, Victor was killed the next day when Algerian, military forces attacked the convoy in which he was being held hostage.

Victor Lovelady may not be a household name, but there is no doubt that his contribution meets the Presidential Medal of Freedom's high standards. He worked hard to provide an honest living for his family and when in danger, thought first to protect others instead of himself. When his brother Michael testified about Victor's heroics before my subcommittee in July, there was not a dry eye in the house. Everyone who hears Victor's story is inspired to act with courage, conviction, and compassion—in other words, to act as a true American.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you and all of our colleagues are as touched by Victor's story as I am. He was a great man and his legacy will continue through his wife, Maureen, and his two children, Erin and Grant. I am honored to call this man and his family my constituents and will continue to fight to honor the legacy of their courageous husband and father.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, doing the right thing is a core principle for our American soldiers. Doing the right thing for the right reason and with the right goal is even better. People of character must possess the desire to act ethically in all situations. One of our military's primary responsibilities is to maintain an ethical climate that supports development of such character. General Douglas MacArthur once said, "No nation can safely trust its martial honor to leaders who do not maintain the universal code which distinguishes between those things that are right and those things that are wrong."

Organizations often reinforce its belief system to its members. In the United States, our founding documents reflect the fundamental principles of our nation.

The Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion. The military, which swears to protect the Constitution, places high value on the rights of its personnel to observe tenets of their religious faiths. It also demands respect for all individual differences in moral background and personal conviction. While religious beliefs and practices remain a decision of individual conscience, military commanders